526 about 6-in. to 9-in. long which trolls well because of its streamlined
226 shape. The fish most commonly caught by trolling are listed hereunder;
[136] those marked with an asterisk have also been reported, but on rare occasions :—

Sea bass.
King Mackerel ("Chanad" or Indian seer).
Leer Fish.
Rock Cod.
Barracuda.
*"Sikkan" (English name unknown but weighs up to 60 lbs.).
*Sailfish.
*Shark (usually sand sharks up to 150 lbs.).
*Bonito.

Bottom fishing in the deeper water a mile or so off the coast, using crab, cuttlefish or large prawn as bait, yields Queen-fish, "Hamriyah" (English name unknown but similar to red snapper) and several kinds of rays, in addition to three or four of the above-listed species caught trolling. Many of these fish weigh 30 to 60 lbs. and give very good sport on a light sea-rod with a reel carrying about 250 yards of cutty hunk or nylon line with 18 or 24 lb. breaking strain. The American type 5-star drag reel is popular for trolling because by insulating the shock of the initial fierce strike, it enables lighter tackle to be used. Sailfish weighing about 55 lb. have been caught near the Black Buoy, the northern entrance marker to the Sitra channel, on at least two authenticated occasions. A game-fishing maxim says that "where there are sailfish, there are marlin" and, although not yet reported in local Bahrain waters, marlin have been seen as near as Umm Said on the east coast of the Qatar peninsular.

Bass (Ar. "Zbaiti"), "Shari" (12-in. long, drab colour), "Saafi" (about 24-in. long, white colour) and a colourful variety of small fish up to 5-6 lb. are caught fishing from the shore at many places around the coast. A trout rod or other light bait-casting rod with a 2½-oz. tip gives excellent sport and can be most exciting when, for instance, a 10 lb. sea bass is hooked and landed, as was done with such tackle in the 1952 season.

The spring and autumn are the best fishing seasons, although fish are sought and caught by the enthusiasts throughout the winter, except during the very cold spells. The hot summer months of July, August and September are the worst or fishing in Bahrain, the Bahrainis say that the fish go out to the deeper water to keep cool, in which they are both missed and envied by the local "Isaac Waltons," left ashore to prepare their tackle for the coming autumn season.

526 *Riding and Racing.* Bahrain offers excellent opportunities for
● 231 riding, but it is only recently that these have been recognised by European and American residents in the Islands. The BAPCO Club has a stable of twelve horses at Awali and riding classes are held for children and adults. In Manama a number of Arab merchants keep horses for

hacking as well as for racing and they are often willing to lend them to those interested in riding. With the exception of a few horses owned by Europeans, the remainder in Bahrain are the property of H.H. The Ruler, of the State Police and of other members of the Ruling Family. The keeping of horses in Bahrain is an expensive matter as the cost of fodder is high.

There are at the time of writing only two race meetings a year, these are held at the Manama Racecourse on Jufair Road. The race meetings take place in the spring and autumn, but it is hoped shortly to increase their number. The Races are run by a committee which receives the full support and patronage of the Ruler and there is a Totalisator under Government control. The races are very popular in Bahrain and not only is the Enclosure always packed with many hundreds of Arabs and Europeans but the whole length of the track is lined with onlookers who during the morning of the races come in buses, taxis and on foot to the Racecourse. The races vary in distance from four furlongs to one mile, some are handicaps and others are open. The Race Meetings of Bahrain are one of the social events of the year and people come from Dhahran and Qatar for the occasion. The brightly coloured dresses of the ladies, the equally colourful clothes of the Arabs and the more sombre get-up of the Englishmen are worthy of this Gulf Ascot !

Bathing. Around the shores of Bahrain are a number of excellent beaches, particularly to the south of the island, away from the villages. Unfortunately the coast of Bahrain is so shallow that it is often necessary to walk for a long way into the sea before deep water is reached. Swimming and picnicing is particularly pleasant at Ras al-Barr and along the west coast of Bahrain below Zellaq. There is no real danger from swimming in the sea, sharks are very rarely seen and it is only the occasional ray that should be treated with respect. Swimming shoes are, however, very necessary as the sharp coral stone in many places along the coast causes bad cuts which are liable to go septic. At Zellaq there is the BAPCO Plage which, in the summer, sees an attendance of over 50 a day and as many as 200-300 bathers at week-ends.

There are a number of places for fresh water bathing, the Pool at Adari is very pleasant but in the summer is inclined to be crowded. There are also pools at Ain Hakim, Sitra and elsewhere. At Awali there are two swimming baths and the Gymkhana Club also possesses a large bath situated in very attractive surroundings. In all the natural springs and in the baths which receive their water direct from artesian wells, the water has a temperature of about 83 degrees ; this remains the same in winter and in summer so that in the former the water seems warm, in the latter, cool.

Other Sports. In addition to these activities it is possible to play many other games in Bahrain, including tennis, golf, hockey, cricket, volley-ball, football, etc.

There are a number of public and private tennis courts in Bahrain, in Awali the courts of the BAPCO Club, and in Manama the Bahrain

175 of Hormuz. The Governor of Muscat refused to submit, so the town was pounded by the Portuguese guns until it surrendered. The Portuguese landed and captured many of the chief inhabitants, whose ears and noses they chopped off; the city was plundered and then wantonly destroyed by fire, and the victorious fleet sailed off along the Oman coast and captured several other ports, which were treated in the same way. After this Alboquerque turned his attention to Hormuz, the key of the Iranian Gulf.

361 To-day Hormuz is a tiny fishing village on a barren salty island
175 which is visible from ships as they enter the port of Bander Abbas, but when Alboquerque first sailed the waters of the Gulf, Hormuz had the reputation of being a city of fabulous wealth and incomparable luxury and magnificence. The city was originally on the mainland, but when the Tartar hordes swept over Persia it was destroyed and then rebuilt on the island. So famous were the wonders of Hormuz that the sixteenth-century poets in Europe frequently referred to it in their works. To this "jewelled signet of a golden ring" came merchants from all
231 parts of the Orient trading in precious Eastern wares. In the richly
175 stocked markets of Hormuz they sold silks and jewels, ivory and pearls, cloths of silver and of gold, as well as Arab horses and "the finest asses in the world," which may well have been the forbears of the famous Bahrain strain of white donkeys. Even to-day these donkeys have a great reputation and are found as far off as the centre of the Tanganyika Territory in East Africa, where they were taken by Baluchis from
175 Muscat via Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam. The King of Hormuz, who had accumulated great wealth from the Indian trade and the pearl fisheries, possessed large territories both in Iran and on the Arab coast. The islands of Bahrain were subject to Hormuz, which was the distributing centre for the pearls of the Gulf, but Hormuz itself paid tribute to the Sultan of Kerman. The rapid success of the Portuguese navy, both on the Indian coast and in Oman, established for it a reputation of invincibility, and the coming of the foreign conquerors with their strange ships and weapons spread fear and terror along the coasts and the islands of the Gulf.

When Alboquerque and his fleet of tall ships arrived at Hormuz he found that the King was aware of his intention and the Hormuzians were prepared to defend their island. The harbour was filled with ships, the battlements were lined with armed men, and foreign mercenaries had been called in to assist the defenders. Bahrain had sent a fleet with "relief of men and provisions," but the Portuguese met the

Bahrein produces dates of very good quality, though inferior to the Iraqi and especially to the Persian variety known in the United States as the Bassorah date. The entire date production of Bahrein is consumed locally, either fresh or dried, or in a powder which is used like wheat flour for the making of bread, the common food of the rich.

The economic value of the date palm does not stop with the fruit. All other parts of the palm yield products of practical value to Bahreinis; their life would be impossible without it. The trunk furnishes timber for houses and boats; the midribs of the leaves go into crates and furniture; the leaf bases are used for fuel; the small leaves are used in basketry, the fiber for cordage and packing, and the fruit stalks for rope and fuel.

Under the shade of their palm trees and around their springs, the Bahreinis live their relatively simple life, producing some vegetables, weaving a few shawls, making sailcloth or reed mats, and breeding their donkeys. The Bahrein donkeys, or "Bandari," were bought by donkey lovers for their endurance, their height, and other celebrated qualities.

The main occupations of the townspeople are commercial and maritime, mostly fishing and handling the transit shipments which are one of Bahrein's largest sources of revenue. The greatest economic asset of the islands, however, despite the value of the recently discovered oil, is still the pearl fisheries.

PEARL FISHING

The chief source of income of the islands before the discovery and exploitation of oil reserves in the nineteen thirties was pearl fishing. Before the rise of competition from the Japanese pearl fisheries and worldwide economic crisis of 1930, the industry employed more than 20,000 persons annually, and revenue from the pearls, which were exported principally to Paris and London, amounted to about £2,000,000[1] annually. Single pearls often bring enormous prices; for example, the most beautiful

1. Except where otherwise specified, pounds referred to throughout are English pounds sterling.

30: Gt. Britain G-5 (ca. 1918) 1920 MJ1 Saudi Arabia
BAHRAIN M22

228 pearl-trade during the war. Sea fisheries are also extensive, the fish being taken in nets and in tidal weirs or enclosures (*hadhrahs*) made of reeds, some of which surround large areas in the shallow waters round the coasts; 500 lb. of fish a day were supplied without
241 difficulty to the Indian Expeditionary Force in 1914. Agriculture is carried on by irrigation, the chief products being fruit (dates, citrons, limes, melons, figs, &c., but few of the first quality), lucerne, and a few vegetables; a great belt of date-groves on Bahrein Island runs S. from Manāmah to the village of Būri, a distance of about
• 231 7 miles. Domestic animals include about 2,000 donkeys, less than 100 horses owned by the Sheikh and his family, about 100 camels, chiefly used in carrying water to Manāmah for sale, and a small but fine local breed of cattle, in high repute for their milking qualities. Of the donkeys, some 200 are of the famous breed imported from Hasa, from 12 to 13 hands, and white in colour.

433 The chief handicrafts are sail-making, weaving of abbas, lungis, and checked sheeting, and the manufacture of mats from Hasa reeds. Palgrave described the *Bahārinah* as excelling in the crafts of the weaver, the tailor, the dyer, and the worker in metal, wood, or leather. Boat-building, with timber imported from India, employs about 200 carpenters: Bahrein builders can turn out an excellent forty-ton boat in less than a month. Many boats are sold to purchasers in El-Qatar and Oman.

504 Trade at the port of Manāmah was for years hindered by the unsatisfactory arrangements for handling cargo, distribution being
439 delayed, and goods left to deteriorate without any proper protection. In 1910 the control was given to a European, but in the following year native sentiment demanded native control, and two Arabs were appointed, with lamentable results. Since then matters have improved; a Hindu has been placed in charge, and the con-
[651] struction of a jetty and storage-shed has modified the worst of the former defects. The Sheikh is entitled by treaty to an *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. on merchandise. Bahrein is the principal market for the pearl-industry, the export of pearls in a good year attaining about £2,000,000. But it is also an important emporium for the east coast of Arabia, distributing merchandise from India and from countries bordering on the Persian Gulf, to El-Qatar, Qatif, and 'Oqair, from which last two ports goods are carried into the oases of Hasa and Qatif, and beyond into southern Nejd. This local trade is carried in native boats without manifests, so that exact statistics cannot be obtained.

439 The total average imports of Manāmah for the three years 1911–14 amounted to £2,061,038, and exports £2,106,766. During the